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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,302	01/19/2001	Tadao Tsuchimura	1046.1235/JDH	6751

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, LE V	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/764,302	TSUCHIMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Le Nguyen	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 April 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,6-31,37-39 and 42-49* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3, 6-13, 19-21, 14-31, 37-39 and 42-49* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 4/11/05.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-13, 19-21, 14-31, 37-39 and 42-49 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 15, 19, 27, 30, 32, 33, 37, 45, 46, 48 and 50-52 are independent claims; claims 4, 5, 14-18, 22, 23, 32-36, 40, 41 and 50-54 are newly cancelled; claims 1, 6, 8, 9. 12, 19, 24, 27, 30, 37, 45, and 48 are newly amended.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities:

a) "when giving an indication of displaying the second item" in line 10 of claim 1 needs to be changed to -- when given an indication of displaying the second item --;

b) "while keeping the display of the first item" in lines 11-12 of claim 1 needs to be changed to -- while keeping a display of the first item --; and

c) "said display areas" in lines 5-6 of claim 6 needs to be changed to -- said plurality of display areas --.

The examiner has given applicant examples of the error that occur in claims 1 and 6. These errors should be used as a template when reviewing claims 2, 3, 7-13, 19-21, 24-31, 37-39 and 42-49. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 6-8, 19-21, 24, 37-39 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "said single display area" of line 14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "the first item of information" in line 2 of page 6. It is unclear if by "the first item of information", applicant meant the "*specifying information*" or "*specified item of information*". The examiner will interpret it to mean the later.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "the display area" in line 5 of page 6 and line 1 of page 7. It is unclear if by "the display area", applicant meant the "*plurality of display areas*" or "*predetermined area*". The examiner will interpret it to mean the former.

Claim 37 recites the limitation "the first item of information" in line 7. It is unclear if by "the first item of information", applicant meant the "*specifying information*" or "*specified item of information*". The examiner will interpret it to mean the later.

Claim 42 recites the limitation "the display area" in lines 2 and 9 of page 10. It is unclear if by "the display area", applicant meant the "*plurality of display areas*" or "*predetermined area*". The examiner will interpret it to mean the former.

Again, the examiner has given applicant examples of the error that occur in claims 6, 19, 24, 37 and 42. These errors should be used as a template when reviewing claims 1- 3, 6-13, 20-21, 25-31, 38, 39 and 43-49.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. Claims 6-8, 24 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mills et al. ("Mills").

As per claim 6, Mills teaches an information display system comprising a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a), an operation unit indicating an item of information to be displayed in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *user selects information to be displayed in each of the display areas via an operation unit/mouse*), an acquiring unit acquiring the specified item of information and a control unit having the acquired information displayed in the corresponding display area (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5) wherein the display unit displays identifying information for identifying the display area, the control unit when the identifying information corresponding to the display area is specified through the operation unit, enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information and displays only the single display area and delete other display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying*

information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail to replace/delete any image previously displayed in the display area).

As per claim 7, Mills teaches an information display system wherein the identifying information is displayed within the display area identified by the identifying information when the operation unit detects an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, the display area corresponding to the identifying information is enlarged (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 8, Mills teaches an information display system wherein when the operation unit detects an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

Claims 24 and 42 individually are similar in scope to claim 6 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

As per claim 1, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a);

an operation unit indicating an item of information to be displayed in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5*; user*

selects information to be displayed in each of the display areas via an operation unit/mouse);

an acquiring unit acquiring the specified item of information; and a control unit having the acquired information displayed in the corresponding display area (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5);

wherein when a first item of information displayed in a first display area is related to a second item of information, and when given an indication of displaying the second item of information, the second item of information is displayed in a second display area while keeping a display of the first item of information in the first display area (fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25);

wherein the indication of displaying the second item of information is given by operating on the information displayed in the first display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges a second item of information in a second display area corresponding to a first item of information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail*).

Mills does not explicitly disclose the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on a displayed link. Applicant's admitted prior art teaches the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on a displayed link (section [0003]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include applicant's admitted prior art of the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on a link information displayed in a display area to

Mills teaching of the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on the information displayed in a display in order to connect plural pieces of information.

As per claim 3, the modified Mills teaches an information display system comprising a history storing module storing display histories of items of information displayed wherein the items of information stored as the display histories are displayed in a predetermined order in the respective display areas (Mills: fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25).

9. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of applicant's admitted prior art as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Kraus et al. ("Kraus").

As per claim 2, although the modified Mills teaches an information display system wherein the acquiring unit includes loading information from a video source (col. 3, lines 60-65), the modified Mills does not explicitly disclose the information being loaded from a network. Kraus teaches an information display system comprising downloading data from a network (col. 3, lines 20-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Kraus' teaching of information being downloaded from a network to the modified Mills' teaching of information being loaded from a video source in order to provide users with an additional source to be utilized.

10. Claims 9, 27 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of Westerink et al. ("Westerink").

As per claim 9, Mills teaches an information display system comprising: a display unit displaying a turn object which includes an indicator, indicating any one piece of

identifying information among pieces of identifying information arranged along substantially a circumferential shape, turning about the center of the circumferential shape (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *a turn object, an object that has direction/course-changing capabilities such as turn object 26, with arrow(s)/indicator indicating information arranged along a circumferential shape, boundary line or length of such a boundary; the indicator turning/to change direction or course about the center of the boundary line*); a detection unit detecting an operation of the operation unit with respect to the turn object; and a control unit turning the indicator in accordance with the detected operation (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *upon detecting an operation with respect to the turn object, the indicator is displayed to reflect this movement/or turn*). Mills does not explicitly disclose the turn object which includes an indicator being a circumferential turn object that circumferentially turns about the center of the circumferential shape. Westerink teaches a circumferential turn object that circumferentially turns about the center of the circumferential shape. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Westerink's teaching of a circumferential turn object that circumferentially turns about the center of the circumferential shape to Mills teaching of a turn object that turns about the center of the circumferential shape in order to provide users with an additional graphical control for navigating the interface.

Claims 27 and 45 are individually similar in scope to claim 9 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

11. Claims 12, 13, 30, 31, 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of Kraus et al. ("Kraus") and further in view of Westerink et al. ("Westerink").

As per claim 12, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit displaying the information obtained (figs. 2-4a);

a control unit displaying, in a display area the information from loading a video source (col. 3, lines 60-65) wherein the display unit includes a display area for displaying the information (figs. 2-4a) and a turn object having an indicator indicating any one piece of identifying information among pieces of identifying information arranged along substantially a circumferential shape, turning about the center of the circumferential shape (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *a turn object, an object that has direction/course- changing capabilities such as turn object 26, with arrow(s)/indicator indicating information arranged along a circumferential shape, boundary line or length of such a boundary; the indicator turning/to change direction or course about the center of the boundary line*), and the control unit detects an operation of the operation unit with respect to the turn object and displays the information corresponding to the identifying information indicated in a position to which the indicator is turned (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *upon detecting an operation with respect to the turn object, displaying the information corresponding to the identifying information indicated in a position to which the indicator is turned, i.e. the control unit detects the operation of the mouse/operation unit and displays the information such as the preceding row of windows corresponding to the identifying information, an up direction, indicated in a position to which the up*

arrow/indicator is turned). Mills does not explicitly disclose the information being loaded from a network. Kraus teaches an information display system comprising downloading data from a network (col. 3, lines 20-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Kraus' teaching of information being downloaded from a network to Mills teaching of information being loaded from a video source in order to provide users with an additional source to be utilized.

Mills and Kraus still do not explicitly disclose the turn object to include an indicator being a circumferential turn object that circumferentially turns about the center of the circumferential shape. Westerink teaches a circumferential turn object that circumferentially turns about the center of the circumferential shape. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Westerink's teaching of a circumferential turn object that circumferentially turns about the center of the circumferential shape to Mills and Kraus' teaching of a turn object that turns about the center of the circumferential shape in order to provide users with an additional graphical control for navigating the interface.

As per claim 13, the modified Mills teaches an information display system wherein the turn object has pieces of information arranged along the substantially circumferential shape and each including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided with plural items of information are displayed in the divided display areas (Mills: figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45) and when the indicator is turned to the position of indicating the information representing the number of divisions,

the display area is divided by this number of divisions, and plural items of information are displayed in the divided display areas (Mills: col. 5, lines 39-42).

Claims 30 and 48 individually are similar in scope to claim 12 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 31 and 49 individually are similar in scope to claim 13 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

12. Claims 19, 21, 25, 26, 37, 39, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

As per claim 19, Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps comprising forming a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a; e.g. elements 38, 20), specifying information to be displayed in the display area and obtaining a specified item of information and displaying the obtained information in the display area corresponding thereto (col. 3, line 41 through col. 4, line 15; col. 4, line 29 through col. 5, line 60; col. 6, lines 3-58), displaying a second item of information in a second display area while keeping the display of a first item of information in a first display area, when the first item of information displayed in a first display area is related to a second item of information and when given an indication of displaying the second item of information wherein the indication of displaying the second item of information is given by operating on the information displayed in the first display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges a second item of information in a second*

display area corresponding to a first item of information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail). Mills does not explicitly disclose the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on a displayed link. Applicant's admitted prior art teaches the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on a displayed link (section [0003]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include applicant's admitted prior art of the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on a link information displayed in a display area to Mills teaching of the indication of displaying items of information is given by operating on the information displayed in a display in order to connect plural pieces of information.

As per claims 21 and 39, the modified Mills teaches an information display system comprising a history storing module storing display histories of items of information displayed wherein the items of information stored as the display histories are displayed in a predetermined order in the respective display areas (fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25).

As per claim 25, the modified Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine, the method steps comprising displaying the identifying information within the display area identified by the identifying information, and, when detecting an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, enlarging the single display area corresponding to the identifying information (Mills: col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 26, the modified Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine, when detecting an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (Mills: col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

Claim 37 is similar in scope to claim 19 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 43, Mills teaches an information display method comprising displaying the identifying information is displayed within the display area identified by the identifying information, and, when detecting an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, enlarging the single display area corresponding to the identifying information (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 44, Mills teaches an information display method wherein when detecting an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

13. Claims 20 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of applicant's admitted prior art as applied to claims 19 and 37, and further in view of Kraus et al. ("Kraus").

As per claims 20 and 38, although the modified Mills teaches an information display system wherein the acquiring unit includes loading information from a video source (Mills: col. 3, lines 60-65), Mills does not explicitly disclose the information being

loaded from a network. Kraus teaches an information display system comprising downloading data from a network (col. 3, lines 20-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Kraus' teaching of information being downloaded from a network to the modified Mills' teaching of information being loaded from a video source in order to provide users with an additional source to be utilized.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claims 10, 11, 28, 29, 46 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 19, 24, 27, 30, 37, 42, 45 and 48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, except for the following:

Applicant argued the following:

Mills fails to disclose or suggest the claimed present invention's "enlarges said display area corresponding to the identifying information, displays only said single display area and delete other display area".

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Mills teaches an information display system comprising a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a), an operation unit indicating an item of information to be displayed in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *user selects information to be displayed in each of the display areas via an operation unit/mouse*), an acquiring unit acquiring the specified item of information and a control unit having the acquired information displayed in the corresponding display area (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5) wherein the display unit displays identifying information for identifying the display area, the control unit when the identifying information corresponding to the display area is specified through the operation unit, enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information and displays only the single display area and delete other display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5). Furthermore, Mills teaches the control unit detecting user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail, thereby, replacing/deleting any image previously displayed in the display area.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP §

706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Inquires

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LVN
Patent Examiner
June 13, 2005

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100